

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

POMEROY, Earl (Democrat)
Representative, At Large, North Dakota
Elected 1992 to the 103d Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Valley City, North Dakota -- 2 September 1952

Home: Bismarck, North Dakota

Marital Status: Married (Laurie) - two children

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: Univ of North Dakota, BA, 1974; JD, 1979; Grad Work, Univ of Durham, UK, 1975

Military: None

Profession: Lawyer

Political: ND House, 1981-85; Insurance Commissioner, 1985-93. Defeated John T. Korsmo (R) in the Nov92 general election with 59% of the vote for the seat of Byron Dorgan (D), who ran successfully for the Senate seat vacated by Sen Kent Conrad (D). Reelected in 2000 with 53% of the vote and in 2002 with 52%.

Rep Pomeroy is a moderate. Opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), seeking to protect his state's agricultural interests. Favors limiting how much states can pay in Medicaid costs, allowing companies to purchase health insurance cooperatively and requiring health-care facilities to operate within state-approved budgets.

In the first session of the 103d Congress, he cast votes to eliminate the superconducting super collider, the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor, and the space station. During debate on FY95 DoD authorization, voiced concern that the number of bombers supported by the defense budget was inadequate to support two major contingencies. Particularly concerned by the cuts in B-52Hs. Urged rejection of any plans to reduce the number of Minuteman III's in the arsenal.

In the 104th Congress, again addressed his concern about retiring B-52Hs and supported an amdt to the FY96 DoD auth conference report prohibiting the retirement of any of these aircraft until the SALT II treaty enters into force.

In the 105th Congress, was one of seven House members who switched their votes from support to opposition to the procurement of additional B-2 bombers. Pomeroy changed his vote (despite \$2k in campaign contributions from Northrop Grumman since 1995) because of what his staff said were continued efforts by the Air Force to retire the B-52 bombers at Minot AFB. (Inside AF, 4Jul97)

In the 106th Congress, expressed hopes that his colleagues would rise above partisanship in wrestling with the complexities of the US response to the situation in Kosovo. Expressed support for building a national missile defense system in Northeastern North Dakota. Believed Minot AFB would be very suitable for an Air Force airborne laser, with its wide open spaces and allowance for unrestricted testing.

In the 107th Congress, expressed support for H.R. 5063, which sought to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide a special rule for military personnel in determining the exclusion of gains from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to military personnel. Remarked, "This bill makes it easier for military families, like those at Grand Forks and Minot AFBs to sell their homes without incurring capitol gains taxes. Supported a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq, stating, "going to war against Iraq is of last resort, but our nation has to be prepared to act if other options fail." Voted against the FY02 Defense auth bill, remarking he did so because the bill called for a new round of base closures that would threaten both Air Force bases in North Dakota.

Additional: The Pomeroy's adopted a Korean baby girl in early Feb94 -- born on 17Oct93 in Korea. Member, Airpower Caucus, Impact Aid Coalition (Co-Chair), National Guard & Reserve Components Congressional Members Organization; Orientation flight in F-16 on 6Oct95

AF Bases: Grand Forks AFB; Minot AFB Minuteman Sites; Minot AFS; Hector Field (ANG);
Bismarck RBSS

COMMITTEES

WAYS AND MEANS -- Subc on Oversight; Social Security